

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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USIE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ENRG VE

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL STUDY ON POSSIBLE
TAKEOVER OF VENEZUELAN AND NIGERIAN OIL FIELDS

REF CARACAS 9427; STATE 213920

BEGIN SUMMARY: INFLUENTIAL VENEZUELAN INTERNATIONALIST LUIS
ESTEBAN REY SUGGESTS THAT HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS, NOT VENEZUELAN
SPOKESMEN, COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. INVASION OF
VENEZUELA. END SUMMARY

1. LUIS ESTEBAN REY, ACCION DEMOCRATICA DEPUTY AND FREQUENTLY
UNOFFICIAL GOV SPOKESMAN ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, TOLD A
JOURNALIST ON SEP 10 THAT THE CARACAS PRESS SHOULD DIRECT ITS
INQUIRIES ABOUT A RECENT CONGRESSIONAL STUDY OF POSSIBLE INVASION
OF VENEZUELA AND NIGERIA TO PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY
KISSINGER, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, OR AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN.

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IN AN IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF RECENT STATEMENTS BY VENEZUELAN

FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE MIN OF INTERIOR (CARACAS 9427),
REY SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT SENIOR VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WOULD
DENY THE POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. INVASION INSTEAD OF U.S. GOVT
SPOKESMEN. WHEN A JOURNALIST COMMENTED THAT A U.S. INVASION
SEEMS TRULY IMPOSSIBLE, REY RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE?
FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND THEN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
SCHLESINGER, IN STATEMENTS TO THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE U.S. NEWS
AND WORLD REPORT, FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION
IN CASE OF A NEW ARAB OIL EMBARGO. GRANTED, KISSINGER HAD
ADDED THAT AN ACTION OF THIS KIND WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THE SOVIET REACTION. BUT VENEZUELA HAS NOT PARTICIPATED
IN ANY OIL EMBARGO... ALTHOUGH THIS (VENEZUELAN POSITION) IS
CLEAR, ONE MUST NOT FORGET THAT PRESIDENT FORD DECLARED
A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT VENEZUELA MIGHT TAKE PART IN A FUTURE
EMBARGO. END QUOTE

2. REY ALSO STATED THAT HE DID NOT DISPUTE THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
STUDY WAS SIMPLY AN INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE, BUT IT WAS ALSO A
QUINTESENTIALLY IMPERIALIST EXERCISE. IN HIS VIEW, THE ONLY
EXPLANATION OF THIS STUDY IS THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO CONSIDER
SOME FORM OF REPRISAL AGAINST VENEZUELA AND NIGERIA OVER THE
PRICE OF OIL.

3. THE VENEZUELAN COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONALISTS ISSUED A
PRESS RELEASE ON SEPT 9 WHICH STATED THAT IN CONTEXT OF INTER-
AMERICAN RELATIONS IT WOULD BE SHEER FOLLY FOR THE U.S. TO
CONTEMPLATE AN INVASION OF VENEZUELA AND THAT THE LATIN
WORLD MUST PROCEED TO REJECT UNANIMOUSLY THIS CONGRESSIONAL
REPORT. THE COUNCIL ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT WAS NOT SURPRISING
THAT WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATED INVASION, IN VIEW OF STATEMENTS
BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT THE U.S. WOULD
NOT ALLOW OPEC COUNTRIES TO STRANGLE THE ECONOMICS OF THE INDUS-
TRIALIZED WORLD. SHLAUDEMAN

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